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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 5 has been amended to make it dependent from claim 1.

Claims 6, and 8 - 12 remain as originally presented.

Claim 23 has been amended to make it dependent from claim 1.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 37 with some additional language to render the barb element upwardly and outwardly. rema

Claim 35 remains as previously amended.

Claim 38 has been amended to make it dependent from claim 34.

Claims 39 - 42 are newly presented method claims, as suggested by the Examiner in a previous telephone conversation. Claim 34 is independent and claims 39 - 42 are dependent.

All of the claims now provide that the end plates have barbs which extend upwardly and outwardly. This feature is neither suggested nor taught by any of the art of record. It is accordingly submitted that the claims remaining in this application define over the art of record and are allowable. An indication of such allowability is respectfully urged. If the Examiner would prefer other language, however, the

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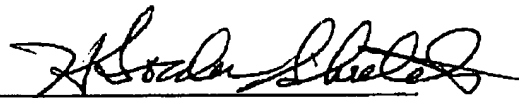
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undersigned would appreciate a telephone call to expedite the prosecution of the application.

The undersigned sincerely appreciates the efforts and cooperation of the Examiner in finding language and elements that define allowable subject matter. Her patience and suggestions are most graciously appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL D. EVANS, Applicant

By 

H. Gordon Shields,
Attorney of Record

HGS:sf
Enclosures
Phoenix, Arizona
(602) 997-4979